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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 H-03 NSC-10

SS-20 DRC-01 /160 W
---------- 123206
R 131639Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9257
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17951

E.O. 11652:GDS:12-31-79
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GW
SUBJECT: EUROGROUP AND BURDENSHARING: JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT

REF: USNATO 6006

1. FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS TOLD US THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT SURPRISED THAT EUROGROUP DISCUSSIONS ON THE BURDENSHARING ISSUE AND EDIP PRODUCED LITTLE BY WAY OF TANGIBLE RESULTS. ALTENBURG (POL/MIL) SAID THAT TANASSI'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE DEC. 6 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL STRUCK FAR TOO OPTIMISTIC A NOTE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS ON BURDENSHARING IN THE FACE OF THE INABILITY OF THE MINISTERS TO AGREE ON A SUBSTANTIVE ANSWER TO THE US BURDENSHARING PROPOSAL OF NOV. 29. HE CLAIMED IN
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FACT THAT THE DISCUSSION DID NOT GO BEYOND INFRASTRUCTURE

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MATTERS AND DID NOT FOCUS ON A BURDENSHARING SOLUTION. ALTENBURG OBSERVED THAT THE EUROGROUP DISCUSSION WAS SO STERILE (PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THE UK REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PROGRAM) HE THOUGHT THE US SHOULD, PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, PURSUE THE MATTER ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH NATO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO SAID A FEW COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE NETHERLANDS AND ITALY, FAVORED ANOTHER EDIP, BUT THE FRG WAS COOL TO THE IDEA. MINISTER LEBER FEARED THE FRG WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE A DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW EDIP. IN SUCH AN EVENT, LEBER WOULD FIND LITTLE OR NO SUPPORT IN THE CABINET FOR AN EDIP, AND COULD BE CERTAIN THAT SCHMIDT WOULD VIGOROUSLY OPPOSE HIM.

2. ALTENBURG ALSO NOTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER MAY HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS ON BURDENSHARING AND THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT. HE SAID MINISTER LEBER HAD GATHERED THE IDEA THAT ALL INCREASED DEFENSE EFFORTS WOULD BE COUNTED AS FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT, A POINT ABOUT WHICH ALTENBURG WAS NOT SURE AFTER CAREFULLY REREADING THE TEXT OF THE LAW.

3. COMMENT. WE TOLD ALTENBURG WE WERE PUZZLED BY MINISTER LEBER'S INTERPRETATION. WE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PARA 4 REFTEL SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT LEBER INDEED BELIEVES FORCE IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT UNDER THE JACKSON-NUNN BURDENSHARING CONCEPT. IF LEBER HAS DRAWN AN ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS WE SHOULD PROBABLY SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT SOON. DEPARTMENT COMMENTS REQUESTED.
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